

City of Somerville  
Board of Health Meeting  
April 19, 2007

**Present:** Dr. Brian Green, Board Chairperson  
Babette Mello, Board Member  
Paula Machado, Board Member  
Noreen Burke, Health Director  
Kathy Henkle, Secretary to the Board  
David Shapiro, Assistant City Solicitor  
Tammy Rocha, SCAP Director  
Stephanie Almeida, SCAP Community Organizer  
Brenda Vigue, Owner of Metamorphosis  
Rocco Antonelli, Somerville Resident

**Meeting Call to Order:**

Dr Green made a motion to call the meeting to order at 5:10pm  
Ms. Mello seconded it.

**Accept Minutes:**

Ms. Mello made a motion to accept the March minutes.  
Dr. Green seconded it.

**Accept Director's Report:**

No motion was made to accept the Director's Report for March.

**Needle Exchange Law/Needle Disposal Plan:**

Stephanie Almeida, the Mayors Opiate Prevention Organizer came before the board to talk about the syringe law and the need to develop needle collection and disposal options for the city. The syringe law enacted in September 2006 decriminalized the possession of needles. It also requires that state dept of public health, dept of environmental protection in conjunction with other relevant state and local agencies "design, establish and implement, or cause to be implemented a program for the collection and disposal of spent non-commercially generated hypodermic needles and lancets". The Mayor's Opiate Prevention Taskforce came up with some options for the safe disposal of needles. These include: 1.) collection sites through pharmacies, medical/hospital and the Health Department. 2.) use old mailboxes or kiosk as collections sites 3.) dispensing compact sharps containers through the DPW/Health Department 4.) advertising the Cambridge Needle exchange for disposal and exchange 5.) non-advertised collection at the senior centers and 6.) collaborate with surrounding communities such as Cambridge on regional disposal plans.

**Metamorphosis Hearing:**

Ms. Vigue, the owner of Metamorphosis came before the board for a hearing to grant her establishment a license. Ms. Vigue gave a brief overview of her business.

Regarding the micropigmentation, a Julia Bowers, who is a licensed permanent make-up artist, will perform this procedure 1 to 2 days a week. The permanent make-up room is separate from the other rooms – it has sharps disposal and glove boxes mounted on the walls and micropigmentation will be the only procedure done in this room. This room is cleaned with hospital strength disinfectants. All the equipment that Ms. Bowers will be using is single-use and all are disposable and only used once. Ms. Vigue went on to say that the Commonwealth regulations state that if the medical spa has credential providers, nurse, practitioner, doctor, etc. they are exempt from having to get a permit as a clinic. After a short discussion on the mixed-use of the establishment, Dr. Green made a motion to approve the application of Metamorphosis to be licensed as a body art establishment. Ms. Machado seconded it. A vote was taken 3 yes – 0 no.

### **Directors' Updates:**

Personnel – Paula Machado was appointed by the Board of Alderman.

A summer student will be hired to assist with emergency preparedness work.

2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews will be conducted April 30, 2007 for the Assistant Director's position. We have 3 final candidates to interview.

We successfully converted a school nurse to a public health preparedness nurse position.

Marlene Bartlett will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Health Nurse for the Health Department

Stephanie Almeida is leaving the city to relocate to North Carolina and she will be greatly missed and has been a huge asset to the Health Department

Dr. Michael Coffey and Christine Henebury will be at the next board meeting to discuss the asthma action plans.

Emergency Preparedness – We are looking at conducting an emergency dispensing site drill this summer to exercise our emergency response capacities. The public health nurse suggests offering a real service such as tetanus shots. We also will exercise moving supplies, opening and closing the site, etc. We would like to do this on a Friday or Saturday. Date and logistics have yet to be defined. Board members are invited to observe and learn.

Fitness Buddies is winding down and a final session is being held where the mayor will give out participant awards

Budget FY08 – Ms. Burke will send the board members a final copy of her FY08 budget packet, which includes

narrative, fy07 program accomplishments and goals for FY08.

Upcoming Board of Health Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be May 17, 2007.

Adjourn Meeting:

Ms. Mello made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25pm

Ms. Machaco seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathy Henkle

Secretary to the Board